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STATE: EVAN BLOOM AND LAWRENCE HUGHES

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SUBJECT: FINLAND WILL SUPPORT U.S. POSITION AT ANTARCTIC  
TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

REF: SECSTATE 42866

¶1. (SBU) Econoff delivered reftel demarche on the upcoming Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) to Mr. Jukka Nikulainen, First Secretary in the Northern Dimension unit of the GOF Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Finnish delegation to the ATCM meeting includes:

- Ambassador Erik Ulfstedt, Head of Delegation, MFA
- Jukka Nikulainen, MFA Northern Dimension unit
- Marja Pohjanpalo, MFA Treaty Law unit
- Tuomas Kuokkanen, Ministry of Environment
- Outi Mahonen, Ministry of Environment

¶2. (SBU) Nikulainen said the Finnish delegation was generally pleased with the U.S. working paper for controlling tourism in the Antarctic and they would speak in favor of the proposal. Nikulainen said their delegation was especially pleased that the U.S. proposal focused on environmental protection as the basis for regulating tourism in the region.

Nikulainen said Finland, in principle, supports the U.S. proposal to limit the number passengers on tour ships to less than 500, as well limiting the total number of passengers at any one time and requiring guides for groups of less than 20 passengers. Nikulainen agreed that IMO needs to play a strong role in approving shipping issues as outlined in the U.S. proposal.

¶3. (SBU) Nikulainen said they have no opinion on the proposed U.S. research stations in the region. Their delegation is hoping to learn more before deciding; however, Finland is generally supportive of polar research especially given the International Polar Year commemoration.

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